

Message Text

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70

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 OIC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AGR-05 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12

NEA-09 /113 W

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P R 092108Z MAY 75

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 267

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, UNGA

SUBJ: UNGA - SPECIAL SESSION - INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 106230

1. IN AN UNUSUALLY CONCILIATORY ATMOSPHERE PREPCOM
CONVENED FOR TWO HOURS THIS AM BY CHAIRMAN BENNANI.
WHILE SOME DELS INCLINED TO DISCUSS SUBSTANCE,
PREPONDERANCE OF THOSE PRESENT SUCCESSFULLY INSISTED
THAT PREPCOM CONFINE ITSELF TO ARRANGEMENTS, ORGANIZA-
TION AND PROCEDURES AT THIS POINT.

2. CHAIRMAN OPENED MEETING BY OPINING THAT TIME IS
SHORT. NEVERTHELESS IT APPEARS THAT MOST DELS HAVE
NOT HAD TIME TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS IN RE CRP-1. HE
FELT IT WOULD BE USELESS TO OPEN A PANDORA'S BOX ON
SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS. THEREFORE HE HOPED THAT PROGRESS
COULD BE MADE ON ORGANIZATION AND ARRANGEMENTS. HE
FURTHER PROPOSED THAT NEXT MEETING BE HELD MAY 21
AND REGARDED AS AN EVALUATION OF PROGRESS.

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3. NETHERLANDS OPENED THE MEETING BY ACCEPTING THE

AGENDA CONTAINED IN CRP-1. HOWEVER THEY PROPOSED THAT SOCIAL DIMENSIONS AND INVESTMENT BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA SINCE THE NETHERLANDS REGARDS THESE AS INDISPENSABLE ELEMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

4. IRAN IMMEDIATELY QUESTIONED WHETHER INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AT PLENARY LEVEL IS PLACE TO RAISE AND REFINE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. THEY MUCH PREFERRED A CONTINUATION OF THE MANY INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS TAKING PLACE IN SMALLER GROUPS WHERE DIFFERENCES, IF ANY, CAN BE NARROWED. SUCH THOROUGH VENTILATION OF ISSUES WOULD MINIMIZE THE CHANCES OF CONFRONTATION WHEN ISSUES BROUGHT TO PLENARY GROUP. HOVEYDA SUGGESTED WE CONCENTRATE ON HOW TO ORGANIZE OURSELVES, INCLUDING DETERMINING NUMBER OF COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, OR WORKING GROUPS TO BE ESTABLISHED.

5. MEXICO FOLLOWED AND SUPPORTED CONCENTRATION ON PROCEDURES AT THIS STAGE. REP SAID THAT 77 HAD TABLED THEIR PRELIMINARY POSITION AND REQUESTED REACTIONS OR COUNTER-PROPOSALS OF OTHERS.

6. SENEGAL CONTENDED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF 27 WITHIN THE GROUP OF 77 SHOULD IDENTIFY AND CONTACT OTHER GROUPS REGARDED AS ESSENTIAL TO DIALOGUE.

7. ALGERIA OBJECTED TO ANY RIGOROUS STRUCTURING OF PROCEEDINGS PRIOR TO SECOND PREPCOM. AMB RAHAL SAID THAT WE ARE FACED WITH A DILEMMA, NAMELY, HOW TO ACCOMPLISH A BIG TASK IN A SMALL AMOUNT OF TIME. URGED THAT GROUP DISTINGUISH BETWEEN WORK TO BE DONE IN PREPCOM ITSELF AND WORK BEST DONE OUTSIDE OF FORMAL GROUP. ARGUED AGAINST WASTING TIME ON NEW RULES, PROCEDURE AND FORMAT. HE SAID WE SHOULD DECIDE ON OBJECTIVES, SET MEETING DATES AND START TO WORK.

8. UK CONFIRMED THAT LONDON AUTHORITIES TAKING CRP-1 SERIOUSLY. HOWEVER SPECIFIC RESPONSE ON SUBSTANCE NOT LIKELY BEFORE END OF MAY. THEREFORE URGED THAT WE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTINUE SERIOUS BUT INFORMAL CONTACTS AND REQUESTED FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF UK THREE-TIER APPROACH.

9. FRANCE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT AUTHORITIES GIVING CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO CRP-1. MIN ROUGET INDICATED THAT FRANCE WOULD SPEAK FOR ITSELF EXCEPT WHERE EEC MATTERS UNDER DISCUSSION. SUGGESTED THAT NOT ALL ITEMS ARE EQUALLY RIPE FOR DISCUSSION. HOWEVER FRANCE

PREPARED TO BEGIN PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION ON INDUSTRIALIZATION SINCE MOST OF PAPER NOW IN HANDS OF DELS. CONCLUDED BY URGING THAT COMMITTEE ON REVIEW AND APPRAISAL REFRAIN FROM EXPRESSING ITSELF ON ISSUES MORE PROPERLY THE WORK OF THE PREPCOM. CONVERSELY URGED THAT PREPCOM REFER ALL MATTERS NOT ADMITTED TO ITS AGENDA TO R AND A.

10. IRELAND SAID THAT WHILE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAVE NOT PRESENTED A COUNTER-PROPOSAL TO CRP-1 IT WELCOMED OFFERING OF G-77.

11. NORWAY SUPPORTED IRAN AND ALGERIA IN THEIR CONTENTION THAT TIME NOT RIPE FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS.

12. US REP USED DEPARTMENTAL GUIDANCE ON POSSIBLE DRAFT AGENDA AS BASIS OF INTERVENTION. URGED THAT AGENDA BE SELECTIVE AND THAT INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS USEFUL ADJUNCT TO PREPCOM AT THIS POINT. EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE ABLE TO VENTURE INTO SUBSTANCE DURING MONTH OF MAY AND SUPPORTED FLEXIBILITY AS NECESSARY INGREDIENT IN APPROACHING SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE EXPERIENCE WITH ONE AD HOC GROUP AT SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION HAD PROVEN CATASTROPHIC. CONTACT GROUP FLOODED WITH DRAFTS, REVISIONS, AND AMENDMENTS. EVEN IN COURSE OF 22-HOUR WORK DAY COMMITTEE FINALLY COLLAPSED UNDER WEIGHT OF THIS VARIED AND CONTENTIOUS SET OF INPUTS. END RESULT WAS THAT G-77 VIRTUALLY IGNORED MANY PROPOSALS, COUNTER-PROPOSALS, AND REVISIONS. ULTIMATELY THEY REVERTED TO THEIR ORIGINAL DRAFTS WHICH WERE IN FACT WORST POSSIBLE COMMON DENOMINATOR. ACTION VIRTUALLY OBIATED HARD WORK OF SERIOUS PARTICIPANTS. HE SUGGESTED ILLUSTRATIVELY THAT AN AD HOC GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY TRADE A SECOND GROUP ON STRUCTURAL CHANGES AND A THIRD GROUP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON OTHER SUBSTANCE MIGHT BE A MINIMAL DIVISION OF LABOR. HE DID NOT GO INTO SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSES BUT EMPHASIZED CONTINUING INTEREST IN SHORT LIST OF AGENDA ITEMS AND THAT ALL ISSUES FOR THE TIME BEING SHOULD REMAIN OPEN.

13. BRAZIL SUPPORTED CONTINUING CONTACTS AND EXPLORATIVE DISCUSSION. THEY QUESTIONED THE FRENCH SUGGESTION IN RE R AND A EXERCISE ON GROUNDS THAT COORDINATION AND TIMING IMPEDED.

14. CHAIRMAN SUMMARIZED SEVERAL INTERVENTIONS BY AGREEING THAT FLEXIBILITY IN CONSULTATIONS NECESSARY IN COMING DAYS, SOME ISSUES CAN PROBABLY BE EXAMINED AS PREPARATION BY GOVERNMENTS IS COMPLETED AND THAT HE WOULD PROPOSE NEXT INFORMAL MEETING FOR MAY 23.

15. COMMENT: WE WERE PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY THE FACT THAT EVERY DEL EXCEPT BRAZIL SPOKE OF CONCILIATION AND CONSTRUCTIVE ACTION. MOST APPEAR WILLING TO TRY AND IDENTIFY THE MINIMUM PRIORITY INTERESTS ON WHICH SOME ACTION CAN BE OBTAINED. WE DOUBT AT THIS STAGE THAT THE SECOND PREPCOM WILL IN FACT BE ABLE TO FULFILL ITS MANDATE AT THE JUNE SESSION SINCE MANY DELEGATIONS BELIEVE THAT A CLEAR ASSESSMENT OF THE TERMS OF TRADE AND GENERAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS MUST BE IN HAND AND DIGESTED BEFORE PLANS FOR THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION CAN BE FINALIZED.

16. CLEARLY ALGERIAN AND IRAN, WITH LIMITED SUPPORT FROM SENEGAL, SOUGHT TO SPEAK FOR G-77. INDIA, PAKISTAN AND YUGOSLAVIA WERE CONSPICUOUSLY SOLEMN. TOWARD END OF MEETING YUGOSLAV COUNSELOR CABRIC TOLD MIN-COUNS THAT THEY HOPED TO RESUME BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS AS FOLLOW-UP TO EARLIER SESSION INITIATED BY AMB SCALI NEXT WEEK.
SCALI

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